

Animal Mutilations **—The Unsolved Mystery—**

According to leading investigator Linda Moulton Howe, the strange phenomenon of animal mutilations is no closer to being understood three decades after the first cases were reported. The mystery deepens as the deaths continue unabated worldwide.

An interview with
Linda Moulton Howe

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Linda Moulton Howe is an award-winning film producer and a leader in the field of ufology. She has received local, national and international awards, including regional Emmies and a national Emmy nomination for her documentaries, including her film, *A Strange Harvest*, which explored the worldwide animal mutilation mystery which has haunted the US and other countries since the late 1960s and continues to this date. She is also the author of many books and films in the ufology field, including *An Alien Harvest*, *A Strange Harvest* and *Glimpses of Other Realities, Vol. 1*. In 1992, Linda was voted the international MUFON award, honouring her contributions to advancing the understanding of complex alien-life-form phenomena.

Today, Linda continues to write, produce and speak at national and international conferences and symposiums. She also produces and reports for television and radio, including news for the nationally syndicated radio program, *Dreamland*.

Contact Forum (CF): I know you are an award-winning film producer. Please tell *Contact Forum* readers how you went from producing films to getting involved in cattle mutilations and the UFO phenomenon.

Linda Moulton Howe (LMH): I graduated from Stanford University in 1968, with a Masters degree in communication, where I made documentary films. I went right from Stanford into the documentary unit at MGM in Los Angeles, working on science projects. When I was at Stanford, all my work and my Master's degree film were in medicine and science.

My career, right from school, was focused on science. When my husband was at Harvard working on a degree, I produced all of the medical programming for Timothy Johnson, who is now the Medical Editor for the ABC network and often substitutes for *Nightline's* Ted Koppel. When my husband and I moved to Denver, Colorado, with his company, I took the position of Director of Special Projects at the CBS affiliate in Denver. There I was in charge of doing documentaries, live shows and news, all in the area of science, medicine and the environment. I held that position from 1976 to 1983.

It was in 1979, while Director of Special Projects at Channel 7 (CBS), that news was emerging again about strange and unusual animal deaths, referred to as "animal mutilations". I decided that since so many were happening in Colorado and surrounding states, I wanted to find out what was really happening.

When I began the research in September of 1979, I honestly thought that I was in an environmental contamination story. I personally was shocked to talk with sheriffs, ranchers and fellow journalists who had been covering the story and hear them tell me—off the record—about their encounters with football-field-sized orange-glowing lights in pastures where they found mutilated animals, or brilliant beams of light coming down from something in the sky, which they could not identify, in pastures where they found these mutilated animals.

Two deputy sheriffs out in Elizabeth, Colorado, where they had had dozens and dozens—literally, almost 200—mutilations over a two-year period, had been patrolling out on some country roads in an area where there had been a lot of mutilations. One of these deputies, Bill Waugh—whom I feature in my documentary film, *A Strange Harvest*, and the book I did 10 years later, *An Alien Harvest*—told me about the night he and the other deputy saw this orange-glowing light coming straight at their police car. They were so convinced that this light was on a head-on collision course with their front window that he hit the brakes. They both 'hit' the doors the way officers are trained to do, and rolled

out onto the ground onto their backs. He said he could hardly believe his own eyes as the orange-glowing light came within inches of the window of their car, then veered at a 90-degree angle and went off.

He said as long as those orange balls of light were around, they had mutilations in Elizabeth, Colorado. When people stopped reporting these glowing balls of light, the mutilations stopped. The link between light and the mutilations was something that I heard everywhere I went.

The next step that people kept linking the animal mutilations to were these strange, silent, dark helicopters which would show up above pastures either before or after mutilations occurred. Law enforcement officers, ranchers and journalists were all curious about these dark, black, silent helicopters that were being reported all the way back to the late 1960s and early 1970s. The modern age of animal mutilations began in the 1960s.

The third link to this came when I was talking with then Special Investigator in the District Attorney's office of Trinidad, Colorado, Lou Jirodo. He is now Sheriff of Las Animas County in south Colorado. He had been investigating the animal mutilation mystery since the early 1970s. In the fall of 1979, when I was interviewing him on camera and asked him who or what he thought was involved with the mutilations, he stunned me by saying that he and other investigators privately had come to the conclusion that they were not dealing with something terrestrial. They were dealing with something that he called "creatures not from this planet", who are actively involved with going to various pastures in the United States and other parts of the world and taking tissue and fluid from animals for reasons that are totally incomprehensible. As a law

enforcement officer, he had come to the conclusion that the silent, dark helicopters, which he and others had tried to investigate and follow, were behaving like some kind of camouflage.

There were many reports in law enforcement offices in the 1970s about people saying a silent helicopter was hovering over a pasture, then disappeared into a 'puff of cloud'. As Jirodo said, "Real helicopters don't dissolve into clouds."

Sheriff Jirodo was the first law enforcement officer to suggest to me, on the record, the link between the animal mutilations and something non-human, as well as the link between the animal mutilations and these dark helicopters being a camouflage for something non-human.

CF: Did you really believe the link to something non-human at that point?

LMH: When Lou Jirodo and I talked, I had probably already interviewed 150 people. I had heard a lot about the light. I had read file reports ranging from Canada and the United States through to Mexico and other parts of the world, in which maybe a

handful of these reports were about ranchers, especially those who said they had seen some kind of small being or creature in or around corrals or pastures where these mutilations occurred. They didn't know what they were looking at.

It was in the spring of 1980 that I got a call about a medical case that had been forwarded to Dr Leo Sprinkle. At that point, in 1979, he was Director of Counselling and Testing at the University of Wyoming in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Dr Leo Sprinkle had been one of the first courageous professionals to give some credence to what is now referred to as the "human abduction syndrome". He had been trying to help people who had been coming to his office reporting strange missing-time episodes, often associated with seeing a light in the sky. If they were driving, they would be home two hours later than they were supposed to be.

Dr Sprinkle had been contacted by a group in Arizona about a case of a woman named Judy Doraty. An audiocassette tape was sent to me to listen to because the woman had done a hypnosis session with a medical doctor in the south-west, trying to penetrate amnesia that went back to the spring of 1973. It involved an event of five people in her family, all watching a strange moving light that was pacing their car outside of Houston, Texas, in May of 1973. They all remembered pulling the car over to the side of



Mutilated steer, Caldwell, Kansas, photographed by Chuck Pine on 3 February 1992.

the road to get a better look at the light. And they all remembered that Judy Doraty, who got out to look at the light, got back into the car complaining of being nauseous and thirsty.

They then drove to the house of a relative who was taking care of their children. They were met by their relatives saying, "Where have you been? We've been frantic!" They were two hours later than they were supposed

to be, but none of the five people in the car knew that there was any problem at the time. After that, Judy Doraty suffered such severe headaches, pain and nightmares that she was basically incapacitated.

So, in 1980, I was sent the audiocassette tape that had been done by a medical doctor, in which Judy described her experience. After getting out of the car, Judy said she could see a beam of light coming from something in the sky down into a pasture where they had stopped their car, and that a calf—a brown and white animal—was rising in that beam of light.

I decided that I wanted to pursue that story further if I could. It literally took two months of talking with her husband and with Judy, assuring that there would be complete anonymity, that she would not be identified by her married name and location, before we were able to fly Dr Sprinkle to a location in the south-west and do a four-hour hypnosis session with her.

It was the first time her amnesia about that night had been penetrated, and her memory went beyond seeing a brown-and-white

calf rising in a beam of light. It included seeing four-and-a-half-foot-tall, grey-skinned creatures with eyes that she drew from her hypnosis session as being reptilian, meaning they had vertical slits, not human-looking but snake-like or alligator-like. They had four long fingers and some sort of claws or points at the ends. In this abduction sequence, she watched them excise tissue from parts of the calf.

I think this hypnosis session, and listening to this poor woman who was literally being torn apart physically, mentally and spiritually by something that had taken hold of her and her family back in '73, and listening to these details unfold under the skillful hands of Dr Sprinkle, was probably the turning point in my own professional life. I realised I had to take these reports about the lights, the non-human-looking creatures, and a connection to something that may be off planet, very seriously.

I suppose that was the real transition when I realised that I had to follow the facts of this story where they led. I could not hold onto some preconceived conclusions and make a film that would fit those preconceived conclusions—such as, there was a satanic link, or it was only predators or people.

Just to show you what I did do, a Catholic priest was one of the first people I interviewed about what satanic cults do with animals and humans in rituals. I showed the Catholic priest the photographs I was gathering from sheriffs' offices. The Catholic priest immediately said, "No, nothing you're showing me resembles anything I know about satanic ritual." I've heard that same thing now from many law enforcement officers who have called

me in to share files with them in their own investigation of either animal mutilations or actual satanic rituals. In cases where law enforcement has been investigating actual satanic actions or incidents, these don't resemble anything in the unusual animal deaths I have been researching since 1979.

CF: When we hear about animal mutilations, we usually hear references to cattle. But I understand that many different animals have been involved. Is this true?

LMH: Yes. Every domestic animal that you can think of, plus deer, elk, marmots, rabbits, wild birds. It is literally everything. In fact, the first cases back in the 1960s, reported in Canada, were horses, not cattle. The first story reported worldwide was a horse in southern Colorado. Again, not cattle. The cattle association began in 1973 in huge numbers. There had been cattle reported this way, but not in a major media way in the mid- or late '60s. It started with horses. Canada was first, then the Great Lakes region of the United States, and Pennsylvania. Those were the areas that were affected first.

What people hold in their mind is when the publicity began reaching *Time* and *Newsweek*, etc. Those were articles that began

around 1973-1974. By then, the phenomenon was spreading from the Great Lakes into the Midwest. It had already been reported in all the provinces of Canada. By 1975-1976, there were hundreds and hundreds of reports going on in the Rocky Mountain states, Mexico, Central America, South America, Australia, the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa, and most of Europe. This was a worldwide phenomenon by the mid-1970s.

CF: Is it still going on? Has the phenomenon increased, decreased or remained about the same in the 1990s?

LMH: Right now as we speak, in the last two months I've been contacted by Sky Television and the BBC in England about cattle mutilation reports in Northern Ireland. For the last few months, throughout the island of Puerto Rico there have literally been hundreds of animals found with puncture marks on the sides of their necks—cattle, horses, goats, sheep, chickens, cats. The two holes in the side of the neck are dry. According to a photographer who is taking photographs of these animals for a local newspaper, he has not seen any of the animals yet with any fluid or blood on the feathers, hair or on the ground.

It is interesting that Puerto Rico is now having episodes of



Close-up of steer's head, showing excision of jaw tissue, bone and teeth.

'puncture wounds', because back in the early 1970s to mid-1970s when animal mutilations were being reported worldwide, Puerto Rico had what they called "the Vampire of Moca". Moca is a city in the island of Puerto Rico. Back then, people were reporting finding animals dead with two holes in the side of their neck and no blood or fluid in the body. That's why they called it "the Vampire" of Moca. Well, here it is,

1995, and this same phenomenon is occurring again.

The islanders in both periods of time have reported seeing an intense, glowing light over the area where the next day they would find these animals. Not all these animals have only puncture wounds. Many have the classic incisions of the ear, the eye, the tongue and jaw flesh, the genitals, and the rectum cored out. That's the classic mutilation pattern.

In the United States in the last two months there have been reports of cattle mutilations in Susanville, California. There have been more than a dozen cattle mutilations reported in Potosi, Missouri. Comanche and Tillman counties in southern Oklahoma have had more than a dozen mutilations there. There have been more than a dozen cattle mutilations reported in one ranch in British Columbia, Canada, since this past Spring.

That gives you an overview of what has been happening in just a few months this Fall. There's not been a single year, since I began investigating in 1979, that at the end of the year I don't end up with dozens and dozens of reports of strange animal deaths from all over the world.

CF: Do you have any clue as to what the possible reason

behind these mutilations could be?

LMH: In my book, *An Alien Harvest*, I ventured a possibility based on what the people in the human abduction syndrome said. I featured the Judy Doraty case, and another very famous one called the Cimarron case in 1980 in New Mexico. In both those cases, the women who were involved in the abduction had the impression that the animal mutilation phenomenon was occurring because this non-human intelligence has some kind of survival problem, that the tissue and fluid taken from the animal is used as some sort of sustenance. That's as far as I could say in *Alien Harvest*.

Budd Hopkins, in his book *Intruders*, goes further. He suggests that we are dealing with a non-human intelligence that is harvesting sperm, ova and genetic material from humans—and, I would add, from animals—to create some sort of a hybrid being. It's possible that what is happening with the animals is that both efforts—animal mutilations and human abductions—are serving the same purpose: to create some sort of a hybrid being. If you get that far with hypothesising, you are still left with the enormous question of *why*. And I don't know any investigator who has an answer to that.

CF: You mention that people see bright lights around sites of cattle mutilations. I have heard reports of people seeing bright lights around sites of crop circle formations. Do you feel there is any connection between the two phenomena?

LMH: The link between the alleged UFO phenomena and the crop circle formations is less substantial than in the animal mutilations. Probably the strongest link of all is with the unusual animal deaths, because going back to the beginning of the animal mutilation phenomenon, there have been photographs. Many photographs are of animals being found right in the middle of circles in pastures with physical traces on the ground and physical effects on the soil. The bodies themselves constituted a gigantic source of physical evidence that something really strange has been happening on the planet for decades.

When you go to the crop circle formations, which began essentially in terms of complex formations in 1989-1990, you find that there are many hundreds of reports of moving lights in the sky at night. But in terms of a direct link between the moving lights and a formation occurring, there is really not much link. By this I mean there is no real eye-

witness to the lights having a direct link with the formation of a circle. It's circumstantial.

In my book, *Glimpses of Other Realities, Vol. 1: Facts and Eyewitnesses*, I do quite a substantially detailed report with the names and drawings of four people who were in fields in 1993. All four reported and drew a round object in the sky that appeared, when looked at through binoculars, to have structured, lighted planes or windows around it and light moving in and out of it near fields where formations had occurred or occurred later. Again, there was no direct eyewitness account between seeing this craft and seeing a circle form. It is all circumstantial again. [This has since changed; see report on crop circle creation in NEXUS 3/06. Ed.]

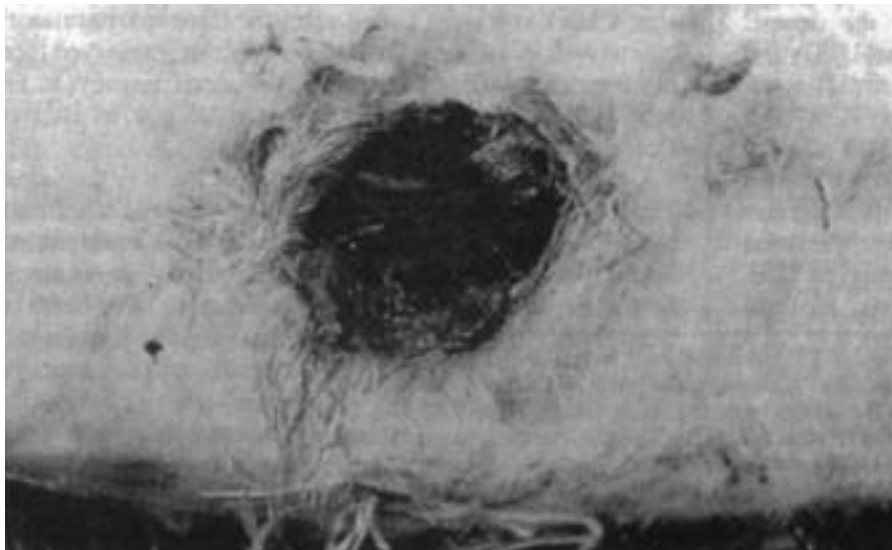
Dr John Altshuler, a haematologist and pathologist in Denver, Colorado, who has been a very respected haematologist there for 25 years, began working with me very quietly and privately in 1989, giving up his time, his money and his effort to look at tissue samples from animals. If I could get the tissue sample to him, he would study it under a microscope. He began to find that the tissue from some of the mutilated animals appeared to be subjected to very high heat in the 300° Fahrenheit [150° Celsius] range. He was puzzled

because he could not find carbon residue as you would find under normal laser surgery. The lack of carbon residue under a microscope meant to him that something was heating the cells, but it wasn't like a traditional laser. So we don't know what the technology is, but clearly there is a cutting technology that produces the side-effect of heat.

Four years ago, I started coordinating scientific research efforts with Dr W. C. Levensgood, a retired biophysicist. He became very interested in what was happening to cereal crops with these strange formations. So, slowly but surely, a few of us started getting barley and wheat, and so forth, to him for study. Well, today, in 1995, he has looked at enough samples from Canada, the US, Australia and England to form a hypothesis. In many of the formations he finds fundamental biophysical and biochemical changes right inside the cells of the plants, as well as other changes that he thinks are related

to an intense and complex energy focused on the crops for a brief period of time. He thinks that microwaves are part of the energy system, but not all. Again, this focuses on an energy we don't

"...the women who were involved in the abduction had the impression that the animal mutilation phenomenon was occurring because this non-human intelligence has some kind of survival problem..."



Close-up of oval cut in belly of Brahman steer; genitals removed. Calumet, Oklahoma.

understand, but suggests a technology is involved.

So, for the crop circles and the animal mutilations, we have been doing scientific studies and we are finding hard physical data. It is irrefutable physical data that something is happening that is pointing toward a sophisticated technology.

The crop circles and the animal mutilations are hard physical evidence of something extraordinary. They are not hoaxes. That's not to say that some people have not gone out with boards and strings and laid down formations. Certainly they have. Yet, when Dr Levengood looked at the plants from known hoaxes, they did not have the fundamental biophysical or biochemical changes in the cells. You cannot change the respiratory rate in the cells of plants by simply stomping on them with feet or boards.

CF: As we all know, there are many pieces to this puzzle we call "contact", and we have to look at all of them if we hope to make sense of any of this. When I was thinking of questions to ask you about animal mutilations, I was leery that my readers would find the subject very scary, maybe even horrifying. This could be particularly true for the portion of *Contact Forum* readers experiencing contacts or abductions. You mentioned the link between animal mutilations and human encounters. Could you explain that link in more details so it may put aside some of the personal fear that one may feel when hearing about these accounts?

LMH: My first book, *An Alien Harvest*, was subtitled *Further Evidence Linking Animal Mutilations and Human Abductions to Alien Life Forms*, because that's where the evidence, facts and eyewitness reports lead. For people who say, "But the animal mutilations are so scary that linking them to the human abduction syndrome would terrify people," I can only give myself as evidence and proof. I've been out in pastures alone, all over the United States and other parts of the world as far away as Peru. I have been investigating unusual phenomena, including the animal mutilations, since 1979 and I am still here. Nothing physically has ever happened to me. The ranchers I have interviewed in literally hundreds of cases now—who have seen either discs set down in their pastures or light in their pastures, or even encountered what they describe as non-human beings—are still here. Their families are unharmed.

There is something about whatever this phenomenon is, that it is treating animal populations very differently than it is the human population. When it comes down to the insights from the men, women and children who have been involved in the human abduction side of things, and in the cases that featured in *An Alien Harvest*, the abductees involved got the distinct impression that what was going on with the mutilations had something to do with this other intelligence's survival. It is a story of great need on the part of something out there. And that need may be in the form of some kind of sustenance.

If animals on this planet are affected by this need, and there is a focus on tissue, fluids and genetic material from cattle, horses and other domestic animals, then the ranchers and farmers certainly have a right to say, "But not my property!" That is one of the things people don't realise. There is an economic loss that has enraged farmers and ranchers.

The human attitude in all this is to say, "If there is something out there that has a problem, and it needs something from our planet to help it survive, why doesn't it deal with us directly? Why isn't it straightforward?" I've talked with ranchers who have said, "Look, if there's something in outer space that needs my cow, I'm happy to help, but it has got to trade with me like we do on this planet."

I think that brings the situation right down to what humans would like; that is, that whatever intelligence we are dealing with—whether you are an abductee, whether you're a rancher who's got unusual animal deaths, whether you're a farmer who's got a gigantic 460-foot crop formation in the middle of his field—whatever the phenomenon, humans would like to understand the motive. We would like to have some kind of straightforward dialogue with this intelligence. We would like to be dealing in the barter system like we do on this planet.

It may be naïve on our part. It may be we are dealing with an intelligence so advanced, so complex, so sophisticated that, even if it had some kind of a survival problem, just straight one-on-one communication with human beings may not even be possible. That is a distinct consideration.

CF: Has there ever been a report of an animal-type mutilation on a human?

LMH: No. Not in any of the cases I've investigated. On the issue of fear—fear of this phenomenon and fear of what's happening in terms of the unusual animal deaths—my personal opinion is that humans have nothing to be afraid of.

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LINDA MOULTON HOWE DOWN-UNDER

Australian readers may be interested to note that Linda Moulton Howe will be touring Australia after her presentation at the annual NEXUS Conference in Sydney on 24-25 May. Details of talks, etc. will be announced in NEXUS April-May issue. If you are a local organiser, feel free to contact us to discuss having Linda speak in your area. Phone Duncan on (07) 5442 9280.



Linda Moulton Howe investigating a mysterious 420-foot-long crop formation in Cherhill, England, on 8 August 1993.